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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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WORK vs VOCATION

Two people can be doing the exact same work yet have very different approaches and attitudes to it. One simply does it as a duty and out of necessity, with no heart in it. The other loves the work and does it joyfully and wholeheartedly. This is perhaps a simple understanding of the difference between what we see as our work and our vocation in life. The Lebanese American writer, poet and artist, Kahlil Gibran, gives us this beautiful reflection:

*All work is empty save when done with love.
 And what is it to work with love?
 It is to weave the cloth with thread drawn from your heart,
 even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth.
 It is to build a house with affection,
 even as if your beloved were to dwell in that house.
 If you cannot work with love but only with distaste,
 it is better that you should leave your work,
 and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms from those who work with joy.
 For if you bake bread with indifference,
 you bake a bitter bread that feeds but half of man's [sic.] hunger.*

*And if you grudge the crushing of the grapes,
 your grudge distils a poison in the wine.
 Work is love made visible.*

What's the difference, then, between the hired hand and the Good Shepherd? Both are doing the exact same work - looking after the flock. The hired hand is in it essentially for the pay and the benefits the work brings. There is no care for the sheep and no knowledge of the sheep. The sheep suffer from neglect. The Good Shepherd, on the other hand, is in it because of love and that alone makes all the difference. With love comes care and knowledge of every single sheep. With love comes harder work and selfless sacrifice for the life of the sheep. With love the sheep come first.

On this day when we pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood, we pray for more shepherds to have the heart of Jesus, who is our Good Shepherd. We also pray that all of us will come to see our work as the vocation to love. Whatever work we do - at home, in the office or in the church, when it is done with our whole heart and with love, it becomes a source of blessing and joy for others and for ourselves.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSSR

Novena notes



4th Sunday of Easter
 Year B
 22 April 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 22 April	Ac 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18 The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
Mon, 23 April St. George, Martyr St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr	Ac 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.
Tue, 24 April St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr	Ac 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30 O praise the Lord, all you nations!
Wed, 25 April St. Mark, Evangelist	1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Thu, 26 April	Ac 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Fri, 27 April	Ac 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6 You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.
Sat, 28 April St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr St. Louis M. Grignion de Montfort, Priest	Ac 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

Good Shepherd Sunday, 22nd April

There will be a second collection on 21st and 22nd April for the on-going formation of the diocesan clergy and the expenses relating to the Major Seminary in Singapore.

Vocations Sunday, 22nd April

The Church commemorates the World Day of prayer for vocations. We invite all of you to join us in praying that more people will be open to God's call to the religious and priestly vocations.



RCIA English Programme

We are starting our new RCIA Programme. It will be from 3rd July 2018 to 31st May 2019. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 31st May 2018.

RCIA Chinese Programme

We are starting our new Chinese RCIA Programme on 7th July 2018 every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office or you can download from www.novenachurch.com

#SCORE

#exampreps#eucharist

Come and pray for God's help for the coming exams

Date : 27th April 2018

Time : 8pm

Venue : Novena Church (Main Church)

Preacher : Fr. Simon Pereira
CSsR



Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles on Sundays and Days of Obligations. Thank you.

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

Labour Day, 1st May 2018

Please take note there will be **NO** lunch time Mass on 1st May 2018, Tuesday. Masses will be at 8am and 6.30pm.